

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

IN RE:)	Case No. 16-06702
)	
Roger D. Hertel)	Chapter 7
)	
Debtor)	Hon. A. Benjamin Goldgar

**APPLICATION FOR ALLOWANCE OF FINAL COMPENSATION AND
REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES OF THE LAW OFFICES OF ILENE F.
GOLDSTEIN, CHARTERED ATTORNEYS FOR THE TRUSTEE**

Law Offices of Ilene F. Goldstein, Chartered, Attorneys for Ilene F. Goldstein, Trustee, pursuant to §330 of the United States Bankruptcy Code, requests the entry of an order authorizing and allowing an award of final compensation and reimbursement of expenses. In its application, IFG Chtd. requests compensation for services rendered during the period May 12, 2016 to December 9, 2016. For this period, IFG Chtd. seeks attorneys' fees for services rendered in the amount of \$2,415.00 for 6.90 hours. IFG Chtd. also requests that the Court order, allow and direct payment to it of \$45.73 for reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with its legal services.

In support of its application, IFG Chtd. respectfully states as follows:

BACKGROUND

1. On February 29, 2016 a voluntary petition under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code was filed in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division.

2. Ilene F. Goldstein has been appointed Trustee for the Bankruptcy Estate of Mary Pat Herman.

3. Through her administration and liquidation of the Estate, Trustee has recovered \$10,000.00 of which \$7,468.96 is currently available to the Estate. Counsel for the Trustee participated in resolution of a multi count complaint which was quite contentious..

INTRODUCTION

4. The Trustee has recovered funds from the settlement of a lawsuit in the amount of \$10,000.00.

RETENTION AND QUALIFICATION OF IFG CHTD.

5. On June 10, 2016 this Court entered an order authorizing the retention of Law Offices of Ilene F. Goldstein, Chartered as attorneys for the Trustee retroactively to May 12, 2016.

6. IFG Chtd. has extensive experience in bankruptcy matters and in the representation of bankruptcy trustees.

ALL SERVICES PERFORMED BY IFG CHTD. WERE REASONABLE AND NECESSARY

7. Pursuant to §330 of the Code and the generally applicable criteria with respect to time, nature, extent and value of services performed, all of IFG Chtd.'s services are compensable and the compensation requested is fair and reasonable. All the legal services performed by IFG Chtd. to date were required for the proper representation of the Trustee in this Chapter 7 case.

There has been no duplication of services by members or associates of IFG Chtd. for which compensation is requested herein. In instances where two or more attorneys participated in any matter, joint participation was deemed necessary due to the complexity of the problems involved. IFG Chtd. has thoroughly reviewed its billing statements to eliminate any non-compensable interoffice conferences of its professionals. IFG Chtd. has also voluntarily chosen to not bill certain time and expenses and cut time already billed. However, IFG Chtd. professionals have been required to conduct a limited number of strategy conferences as defined by In re Adventist Living Centers, Inc., 137 B.R. 701 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. 1991).

From the outset of this case, members of IFG Chtd. were instructed to avoid recording time entries which contained "lumping" as discussed in In re Pettibone Corp., 74 B.R. 293 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. 1987). In those instances in which more than one task is contained within a time entry description, IFG Chtd. has specified within the time entry description the amount of time attributable to each individual task.

8. Itemized and detailed descriptions of the specific legal services rendered to Trustee by IFG Chtd., after revision by the Trustee, are reflected on the billing statements attached hereto as Exhibit A. The billing statements set forth the initials of each attorney and the amount of time spent rendering each service, the day on which such service was rendered and a description of the nature of the services rendered. Also attached as part of Exhibit B is a summary of the fees and costs expended in each category of activity.

**ALL OF THE EXPENSES FOR WHICH IFG CHTD. SEEKS
REIMBURSEMENT WERE NECESSARY**

9. IFG Chtd. incurred expenses in the amount of \$45.73 in connection with its representation of the Trustee during the period May 12, 2016 to December 9, 2016 for which it now requests reimbursement. IFG Chtd. maintained a system for recording expenses in a manner which complies with the requirements of In re Convent Guardian Corp., 103 BR 937 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. 1989). IFG Chtd. continued to undertake extraordinary efforts to attempt to manually input descriptions for document reproduction projects, messenger deliveries, overnight delivery services and facsimile transmittals in order to provide the greatest amount of detail for individual expense entries. An itemized breakdown of each of these expenses is included in the billing statements attached as Exhibit A. IFG Chtd. does not seek reimbursement for expenditures it has incurred in this case which constitute overhead, such as ordinary postage charges and secretarial charges. In re Adventist Living Centers, Inc., 137 BR 701. IFG Chtd. is seeking

reimbursement primarily for expenses incurred for, among other things, document binding and reproduction charges, messenger charges and delivery charges that were incurred in the service of pleadings and mailing of notices to creditors and parties in interest. For documents, pleadings or correspondence which were delivered by messenger, telecopier or Federal Express as opposed to delivery by first class mail, such expedited delivery was deemed absolutely necessary in the exercise of discretion by the responsible attorney in order to meet court deadlines or otherwise insure the efficient and orderly administration of services to the Trustee.

Notwithstanding the fact that a limited number of the expenses included in IFG Chtd.'s billing statements do not contain detailed descriptions, all of the aforesaid expenses were actually incurred by IFG Chtd. and were necessary for the proper representation of the Trustee in this case. All the expenses incurred are specifically allocated to this case and do not represent general overhead or other expenses unrelated to this case.

NATURE OF SERVICES PERFORMED BY IFG CHTD.

Retention

10. Counsel for the Trustee prepared a Motion to hire IFG Chtd and appeared on said Motion as well as prepared all final fee petitions for Counsel and Trustee as well as estimated time for hearing on the same.

In connection with these services, IFG Chtd. expended 2.40 hours, for which it seeks \$840.00 in fees and reimbursable expenses of \$9.28. Set forth below in a chart which summarizes the time expended by each professional in this category.

<u>Professional</u>	<u>Time Spent</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
IFG	2.40 hours	\$350.00	\$840.00
TOTAL	2.40 hours		<u>\$840.00</u>
		Expenses	<u>\$ 9.28</u>
		Total	\$ 849.28

Settlement of Law suit

11. Counsel for the Trustee researched and studied the litigation which was pending and participated in the drafting of a settlement agreement. They further prepared the necessary pleadings to settle the matter in the bankruptcy..

In connection with the above services, IFG Chtd. expended 4.50 hours, for which it seeks compensation in the amount of \$1,575.00 for fees and \$36.45 in expenses. Set forth below is a chart which summarizes the time expended by each professional in this category:

<u>Professional</u>	<u>Time Spent</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
IFG	4.50 hours	\$350.00	\$1,575.00
TOTAL	4.50 hours		\$1,575.00
		Expenses	<u>\$ 36.45</u>
		Total	\$1,611.45

CONCLUSION

12. The rates charged by IFG Chtd. in this fee application are its usual and customary rates charged during the period covered by this application for work performed for other clients in both bankruptcy and non-bankruptcy matters.

13. IFG Chtd. has not entered into an agreement or understanding of any kind, expressed or implied, with any entity to share in its compensation received or to be received by IFG Chtd. for services rendered to the Trustee in this case.

14. IFG Chtd. has not previously submitted a fee applications in this case.

15. IFG Chtd. has provided the Trustee with a draft of this application and certifies that the Trustee has approved the application.

WHEREFORE, IFG Chtd. requests the entry of an order:

- a. Allowing and directing payment to Law Offices of Ilene F. Goldstein, Chartered final compensation in the amount of \$2,415.00 for the actual, necessary and valuable professional services rendered to the Trustee during the period from May 12, 2016 to December 9, 2016.
- b. Allowing and directing payment to Law Offices of Ilene F. Goldstein, Chartered reimbursement for its actual and necessary expenses of \$45.73 incurred in connection with such services;
- c. For such other and further relief as this Court deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted by
Law Offices of Ilene F. Goldstein, Chartered

By: /s/Ilene F. Goldstein
One of Its Attorneys

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TIME SUMMARY BY INDIVIDUAL

<u>Professional</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
IFG	6.90	\$350.00	\$2,415.00
TOTAL	3.90		<u>\$2,415.00</u>

TIME SUMMARY BY CATEGORY

	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Costs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Retention	\$ 840.00	\$ 9.28	\$ 849.28
Settlement	\$ 1,575.00	\$36.45	\$ 1,611.45
TOTAL	<u>\$2,415.00</u>	<u>\$45.73</u>	<u>\$2,460.73</u>